the northern frontier of China proper, has a long history. Sections of it were in existence before Ch'in Shih Huang Ti, and that great monarch completed the barrier. It was repaired and rebuilt again and again, sometimes not on the original course of the old. As it exists now it dates from several periods and is of more than one type of construction. The latest thorough-going repairs seem to have been given it under the Ming, and two hundred miles or more were added under that dynasty. The Ch'ing being masters of Manchuria and Mongolia, against inroads from which it was a protection, presumably did not have as much need for it as did the Ming. The Wall stretches from Shanhaikuan into Kansu, a distance of about twelve hundred and fifty miles in a straight line, and with all its windings probably over fifteen hundred miles. In several places it is double and even triple, thus affording more than one line of defence. Sometimes the successive barriers are many miles apart. Built with an eye for strategic positions, the Great Wall follows mountain crests and takes advantage of narrow gorges. In height it ranges from fifteen to fifty feet, with towers rising at intervals above it. At its base its width is from fifteen to thirty feet and at its top twelve feet or more. On its outer side, for much of the distance, is a moat. The material varies. On the eastern reaches, where it is in the best repair, the Wall usually has an earth or rubble core faced with either brick or stone, bound together by an excellent mortar. Many of the stones are huge hewn granite blocks, some of them fourteen feet long and three or four feet thick. In the western sections the Wall is often carved out of the loess and faced with stone, or made of

loess watered and tamped into wooden forms. In much of Kansu it is simply an earthern bank. Behind it at intervals were permanent camps for the garrisons.

Walls have been used not only for cities and for imperial defence, but to enclose temples, palaces, and private homes. From the outside, nearly every such Chinese structure presents the aspect of a blank screen, at proper places pierced by gates which in turn are often shielded by curtaining walls. The wall may show a little variation and some of the interior buildings may rise above the parapet, but the exterior frequently gives little clue to the quiet courts and gardens within.

Another feature of Chinese architecture is the enclosed court.